



# Montana Wing Observer

## HOW TO MAKE AN AIRPLANE SHINE



40 E Gets a Well-Deserved Rubdown

BILLINGS Captain Martin Surdahl, commander of Beartooth Composite Squadron, reports that teamwork is the best approach. One Saturday last month, ten members gathered at Edwards Jet Center in Billings to wash and wax the corporate airplane that is currently stationed there. Getting the grime and bugs off the plane required about three hours and a lot of hard work and patience. The end result, a shiny clean and waxed "40 Echo," was worth the effort. Maj. Robert Burns, Capt. Surdahl, SM Sage Olson, and 2nd Lts. Jeremiah Goll and Roger Miller were ably assisted by Cadets Adam Brimer, James Cracraft, Jonathan Thompson, Evan Turner, and Keith Winkler. All

members present had a good time interacting with each other while getting a worthy project completed.



Story submitted by Capt. Martin Surdahl. Photos, Maj. Robert Burns.

## MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS

Montana Aeronautics Division recently announced that current cycle applications are now being accepted for nine scholarships that it administers. The scholarships are awarded based on career plans, aviation experience, achievements, and reasons for applying. The scholarships include:

**A Love of Aviation (ALOS) Scholarship**  
**Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship**  
**Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship**  
**Parrott Family Scholarship**  
**AOM Flight Training Scholarship**  
**Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award**  
**Montana Pilots Association Flight Training award**  
**Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship**  
**Montana 99's Flight Scholarship**

More information on the scholarships, including the application process, may be found in Montana Aeronautics Division's newsletter, Montana and the Sky. You can view Montana Aeronautics Division's November issue newsletter at: <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publications/newsletters/aeronews.shtml>. The application deadline for these scholarships is January 27, 2006. Presentation of the scholarships will be at the Montana Aviation Conference in Helena on March 2-4, 2006.

Montana Wing of Civil Air Patrol will have a booth and be offering the Fly-a-Teacher program during the conference.



21 November 2005

e-Published by

Office of Public Affairs

Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol

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It is with much sadness and fondness that we remember Capt. James Long, CAP member, pilot, and friend, who was lost in the fatal Forest Service mission crash of the summer of 2004. Capt. Paul Tweden recently brought to our attention that the story is featured on page 98 of the current (Dec 2005) issue of Reader's Digest Magazine.

## AND THEN THERE WERE SEVEN...

Congratulations to Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Tyler Conklin, who also completed the basic riflery course that was conducted by Flathead Composite Squadron. We regret that his name was inadvertently left off last week's list of cadets who participated.



Cadet CMSgt Tyler Conklin of Flathead Composite Squadron.



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## A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FROM CHAPLAIN 1ST LT. JEFF JONES

*As we approach the holiday season, I would like to extol the benefits of thankfulness in our life. In all situations that we are placed in, we can choose whether to rejoice or grumble. The former brings all sorts of benefits; the latter can diminish our satisfaction in life. I'll mention first the things we might be grateful for, then the benefits of meditating on them.*

### Things worthy of gratitude:

People that we can turn to for support, comfort, and encouragement, including family, spouses, friends and associates.

Growth we enjoy from service: providing love and assurance to a young child, giving quiet tokens of appreciation to loved ones, noticing and helping the difficulties of a friend.

The freedoms we enjoy in this country: freedom of assembly, speech and religion. Those freedoms have been and continue to be bought at a high price that others have and do pay for with their lives.

Health and its attendant gift of motion, action, and enjoying life to the fullest.

Food and absence of the devastating hunger that afflicts so many places

Shelter from the biting cold.

Loyalty of a pet.

Even the challenges of life that bring, along with hardship, increased understanding and stretching of our souls.

From the bright dawn to a deep purple sunset, there are things pleasant to the senses that gladden the heart: the pleasant fragrance of a sweet-smelling flower, the laughter of a child, the white silence of snow, or the gladness of a whispering waterfall.

### Benefits of gratitude:

Positive feeling: we realize that no matter how hard our situation may be, there are many things that could be worse.

Positive influence: appreciation for the contributions of others lifts their spirits as well.

Health: Thankful feelings can help us lower our blood pressure, sleep more soundly, and eat more regularly.

Positive experiences: thankfulness allows us to notice and enjoy the powerful beauty that surrounds us.

*In closing, here is a prayer by the national Chief of Chaplains, Colonel Charles Sharp, passed on by Rocky Mountain region Chaplain Lt. Col. Ralph Yuhasz. It is my prayer, too.*

*Dear Heavenly Father*

*We pause to give you thanks for this holiday season and especially for this Thanksgiving Day. It is a day which is meaningful to us as a nation because of our heritage, and a day which is meaningful to us as individuals because of memories of good times spent with our family and friends. Help us to be grateful for the freedom that we so often take for granted. Keep us mindful that thousands upon thousands of servicemen and women gave their lives that we might be free. We give thanks for the abundance you have bestowed upon us. We are thankful not only for the abundance of material possessions, but also for your faithfulness in times of joy and grief, laughter and sorrow, health and sickness, assurance and doubt, peace and war, life and death.*

*We [offer] this prayer of thanksgiving in Your holy name.*

*Amen.*

